



Representative Rush Holt

Protecting and Strengthening Medicare



“Now that President Obama has signed health care reform into law, I want New Jersey seniors to understand what it means for them. Not only does Medicare remain intact, reform makes it better. Seniors can expect free preventive care, lower drug costs, better primary care, and a 9-year extension of the life of the Medicare Trust Fund.” - Representative Rush Holt

What’s in the Reform Bill for Seniors?

- *Better Primary Care:* Currently, about 12 million seniors lack access to a primary care doctor in their community. Reform will ensure you have access to and can spend more time with your primary care doctor, and receive better coordinated care and recommended treatments.
- *Lower Drug Costs:* Each year, 8,300 seniors on Medicare in New Jersey's Twelfth District, and 227,000 statewide, experience the coverage gap when assistance stops after \$2,800 in prescription expenses. They immediately will receive a \$250 rebate, and eventually the “donut hole” gaps will be closed completely.
- *Free Preventive Care:* You will pay nothing on recommended preventive services, including mammograms and colonoscopies. You can also take advantage of a free annual wellness visit.
- *Protection of Medicare:* The bill extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by at least nine years, according to the Chief Medicare Actuary.
- *Greater Oversight:* Reform will crack down on waste, fraud, abuse that increase costs for everyone. Last year, improper Medicare payments that were discovered and stopped totaled more than \$450 million.

Seniors’ organizations supporting Health Care Reform

AARP, Alliance for Retired Americans, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc., B’nai B’rith International, National Senior Corps Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Council on Aging, National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, Easter Seals, Medicare Rights Center, American Federation of Teachers Program on Retirement and Retirees, Volunteers of America, The American Society on Aging, National Senior Citizens Law Center and more.

In New Jersey’s 12th Congressional District alone, health care reform will improve Medicare for 103,000 beneficiaries, including closing the donut hole. Each year, 8,300 Medicare beneficiaries in the district enter the Part D donut hole and are forced to pay the full cost of their prescription drugs. Under health care reform, these seniors falling into the donut hole will receive \$250 in 2010, over \$700 in 2011 and over \$3,000 by 2020.

Have additional Questions? Need more information? Call Representative Holt at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT.